



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

Trackin' Down Terrorists by the Train Tracks

Anchorage, Alaska, native Staff Sgt. Daniel Walker, 29, the acting platoon sergeant for the Scout Platoon of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, searches for signs of insurgent activity outside of Joint Security Station Luzon in the Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad May 26. The JSS, located inside a former railroad station, provides security to the Iraqi residents of the area as well as shelter for Soldiers and Iraqi policemen.

Initiative Brings Expertise to Maneuver Commanders

By Capt. Travis Ammons
2-1 Inf. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD-Combat brigades throughout Iraq receive embedded provincial readiness teams to bring a different perspective to the fight.

Early this year, the U.S. State Department came up with the idea to embed 10 Provincial Readiness Teams (PRT) with combat brigades to supplement

the 10 non-embedded PRT's established in March 2006.

Embedded PRTs consist of a senior State Department officer as the team leader, a civil affairs officer as the deputy team leader, and up to nine other members with a variety of skill sets. The diversity allows each EPRT to work closely with not only the commanders and Soldiers on the ground, but also with

the local community leaders in Baghdad.

The 2nd "Dagger" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, welcomed one of these EPRTs April 15, and has been working closely with them to integrate all of the different skill sets into the combat formation.

The Dagger EPRT consists of Ambassador John Bennett from Springfield, Va., who volunteered to come out of retire-

ment as a U.S. Ambassador to be the team leader; Lt. Col. Felix Boston from Walnut Creek, Calif., who agreed to come out of a command assignment in civil affairs to be the deputy of the Dagger team; Ali Ameen from Richmond, Va., who is the bicultural, bilingual advisor; Dr. John Crifield from

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Local Iraqi Government Leaders Focus on Essential Services for Baghdad Citizens

1st Lt. Charles Bloomfield
2-32 FA Regt.

BAGHDAD - Local Iraqi government leaders are working together to improve the quality of life in western Baghdad by providing essential services in the Sunni neighborhoods of Yarmouk and Hateen.

The Mansour District deputy director general and his assistant for Yarmouk met, with Coalition Forces and the Hateen and Yarmouk neighborhood advisory council (NAC) chairmen May 28, in an attempt to coordinate resources to improve essential services in those neighborhoods.

Adil Kathim, the deputy director general for the Mansour District, toured the Hateen and Yarmouk neighborhoods with the NAC chairmen in order to point out areas most in need of civil service projects.

Sections of roads throughout the neighborhoods contain standing water that collects sewage run-off, many areas cannot sustain power and residents are unable to solve these problems on their own.


Before the tour began, Kathim provided the NAC Chairmen with the necessary contact information for the engineer

responsible for the power stations which powers both neighborhoods.

One of the main difficulties is getting these agencies to communicate and work together. The bureaucratic process has slowed much of the progress in western Baghdad, adding significance to the meeting with the district's deputy director.

Kathim, in an attempt to improve district services, requested notification of Coalition Force projects in the area, helping him commit Beladiya resources in a coordinated effort.

Maj. James MacGregor, the executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, whose unit operates in the Hateen and Yarmouk neighborhoods, emphasized to the district deputy director that Coalition Forces will work closely with the district.



First Team
POWER THOUGHT

"I CAN SAVE MY OWN LIFE"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I am responsible for my own safety both on and off post.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
Because I AM important, my friends and family love me,
My unit needs me, and my nation is depending on me.

Baghdad in Brief

Iraqi Soldiers Conduct Operation Tiger Hammer

2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Army soldiers conducted a battalion-sized cordon and search operation in the Adhamiyah District of the Iraqi capital June 7.

The combined mission, dubbed Operation Tiger Hammer was conducted by elements of the 1st and 3rd battalions of the 1st Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division with support provided by Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, operating in Baghdad with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

The four-hour operation netted nine detainees and 38 illegal weapons.

Just after sunrise, the U.S. troops established blocking positions around the neighborhood while the Iraqi units fanned out through the narrow streets, searching houses and apartment complexes room-by-room for weapons and contraband.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

madani

Defined:
civil

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 109
Low: 78



Tomorrow

High: 110
Low: 78



Monday

High: 112
Low: 78

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Iraqi Police, Stryker Troops Search Southeastern Baghdad

By Pfc. Benjamin Gable
7th MPAD

BAGHDAD - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers and Iraqi Police troops worked together on a two-day mission to provide security in the Doura area on the south side of the Iraqi capital.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., searched for improvised explosive devices, homemade explosives, weapons caches and extremist activity with help from the Iraqi Police.

The mission began June 1, before sunrise.

Coalition Forces moved into the neighborhood and cordoned off the area. Some Soldiers performed "high-sight" duties, moving to rooftops to provide additional security for those moving on the ground.

"We find the best vantage point we can so we can cover a squad's movements on the ground," said Staff Sgt. Scott Murphy, an Ashburn, Va. native, with Company B. "We scan rooftops and windows for any hostile activities to provide

more security."

With the high side security and cordon in place, Coalition Forces moved from home to home, searching thoroughly for illegal activity. Every room and every courtyard was searched.

Coalition Forces have worked this area before. There was intelligence indicating terrorists had been in the neighborhood planting IEDs and conducting other illegal operations.

An Iraqi woman, who did not wish to give her name for security reasons, said through an interpreter that terrorists frequent the neighborhood recruiting young males and planting roadside bombs, as well as threatening anyone who gives information to Coalition Forces. She also said the area is mostly quiet when Coalition Forces are present, but as soon as they leave, the terrorists return.

Coalition Forces did take sporadic small arms fire throughout the first day. The mission did not slow, however, and they continued moving from house to house and street to street.

Soldiers did whatever it took to ensure the area was safe for the locals.

"The Iraqi people sometimes praise you when you walk in their homes," said Spc.



(Photo by Pfc. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

South Hadley, Mass., native 2nd Lt. Garrett Silvera, a platoon leader with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 2nd Inf. Div., photographs a journal found by Iraqi Police in a mosque in the Doura June 2.

Michael Royster, an infantryman with Co. B. "It makes you feel good about being here and helping them."

After a full day of meticulous searching, the Soldiers regrouped to move back to their base camp and get some rest before starting the second day's mission.

The following morning Soldiers from Co. B. linked up with Iraqi Police and headed back into southeastern Baghdad.

Coalition Forces scoured every house throughout the neighborhood and a surrounding field searching for any evidence they could find. With an interpreter close by, they spoke with many residents to gather further information regarding

insurgent activities.

After making their way through the neighborhoods, Coalition Forces moved to a mosque. Iraqi Police went inside. One Iraqi policeman found a journal that documented previous attacks on Coalition Forces, as well as future attacks. Also uncovered in the mosque was a pair of pants and a shirt covered in blood.

Coalition Forces then moved to finish up clearing the neighborhood.

After completing the mission, the Soldiers of Co. B loaded back into their Strykers and headed back to base. With the mission complete, the Soldiers returned to get some well deserved rest.

Provincial Readiness Teams Bring Different Perspective to Fight

Readiness

From Page 1

Falls Church, Va., who works with USAID; Col. Louis Fazekas from Mechanicsburg, Pa., a city planner; and Bob Perry from California City, Calif., an industrial specialist.

The EPRT's goal is to work with the Iraqi government and private sector to help rebuild the country, filling a valuable void at the level between civil affairs, which works at the tactical level, and the Baghdad

PRT, which works at the operational level.

"Iraq has come through a very disastrous 50 years," Ambassador Bennett said. "We must have an appreciation for the Iraqis as they constructed one of the world's most impressive cities, Baghdad."

Bennett praised the Iraqi culture for its advances in education and industry, despite the obstacles derived from Iraq's political state over the past 50 years.

During their train up with the State Department in Washington D.C., some of the EPRT members met with President

George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"It was an honor to meet and talk informally with the decision makers of our great country," Boston said of his meeting.

The EPRT continues to work with the Dagger Brigade, with each day on the ground giving the team a better understanding of the complexities inherent in western Baghdad, Bennett said. Though there are no easy solutions, Bennett believes that if the Iraqis take the lead, then the answers will meet everyone's expectations.

Spurs in Six!

Go Ahead and Jump Off the Cav's Bandwagon

On the night the National Basketball Association Finals began, the Cleveland Cavaliers bandwagon is overloaded. Everyone is piling on, claiming LeBron is ready to claim his first championship.

Sorry guys, there is no shot for the Cav's to take down the great San Antonio Spurs. I'm so sure of this, I'll do a push up for every combined point the Spurs lose by, should they fall. Here is why I have nothing to fear.

Sure, LeBron had a great series versus the Detroit Pistons. But it took a historical effort from him to get past them. He has no consistent help from his teammates. When you have to rely on Drew Gooden or Sasha Pavlovic to chip in at least 15 apiece per game, you are done.

They both stink.

Gooden is just a garbage man, and Pavlovic was benched earlier in the year for claiming his offense was his defense. Add to that an aging, lumbering center, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and an extremely overrated and underachieving Larry Hughes, and you have yourself a one-man team. LeBron is taking the next step in his career, but no one can win a championship alone.

As good as the Pistons have been, they are no where near the level of the Spurs. The Spurs are a dynasty. This

Trigger Pull

Pfc.
Benjamin
Gable



will be their fourth championship in the past eight years. The Spurs are what teamwork is all about.

They have the greatest power forward of all time in Tim Duncan. He is their anchor. They also have a gritty and smart point guard in Tony Parker. They have one of the top defenders in the league in Bruce Bowen. They also rotate Michael Finley and Manu Ginobili at the shooting guard position, both proven winners. They simply have too much talent for the Cav's to match up with.

The Spurs have home court advantage in the finals. They have one of the best home records in the league this year. In the playoffs, they have been nearly unbeatable at home. The Cav's have struggled in road playoff games, and haven't fared much better at home. Remember, they play in the weak Eastern Conference. The Spurs have had a much tougher road to the

finals, coming from the Western Conference, but have the better play-off record.

While I do believe the Spurs could sweep the series, I also believe in conspiracies. The more games that are televised in the finals, the more money the NBA makes. I don't think David Stern, NBA commissioner, would allow a sweep, especially with the likes of LeBron James playing.

The Spurs will take the first three games. The Cav's will take the next two. That leaves the Spurs winning the championship June 19, at home.

Tim Duncan will solidify himself as the greatest power forward of all time while taking home the most valuable player honor. The Spurs will take their place in NBA history as one of the greatest dynasties of all time.

LeBron and the Cav's will be sent packing and left to rebuild for another playoff run. Tony Parker will get yet another ring shortly after his Spurs win the championship, when he marries Eva Longoria this summer.

I do plan to watch the finals and see how LeBron performs on the biggest stage in basketball. He will get his stats, but it won't be enough to lead his team to a championship. LeBron will eventually win a ring for Cleveland, but not this year.

YOUR EAGLE CASH CARD

**DON'T LEAVE YOUR
TRAILER WITHOUT IT!**



COMBAT EARPLUGS

HOW TO USE THEM

➤ Insert **YELLOW** plugs when you expect loud impulse noise such as weapons fire, explosions, etc. Remember, green out for tactical situations.

➤ Insert **OLIVE DRAB** plugs for steady state noise in and around aircraft, noisy vehicles, etc. In this manner it works like standard earplugs.

